

From: Schaub, Mike
To: [Oster, David \(david_oster@fws.gov\)](mailto:David.Oster@fws.gov)
Cc: [Nelson, Russell](#); [Crocker, Philip](#)
Subject: Biological evaluation for eLMRAP ecoregion DO criteria revisions
Date: Monday, September 10, 2018 5:06:00 PM
Attachments: [BE eLMRAP DO 10.5.17 DRAFT for FWS review.docx](#)

Hi Dave,

I appreciate you taking the time to speak with me by phone last Friday, September 7 to discuss, in part, the subject-mentioned topic.

Previously, the Service reviewed an EPA Region 6-developed biological evaluation (BE) submitted in support of its determination that its action to approve revisions to Louisiana's dissolved oxygen criteria for 31 inland freshwater and estuarine stream segments within the eastern Lower Mississippi River Alluvial Plains Ecoregion (eLMRAP) was not likely to adversely affect the Alabama heelsplitter, the Atlantic sturgeon (Gulf subspecies), the pallid sturgeon, and designated critical habitat for the Atlantic sturgeon. EPA continues to explore additional discretionary action on criteria revisions in Louisiana and would like to request additional technical assistance from the Service to assist us in identifying shortcomings in the previously submitted BE, additional data and information that may be available for the specifically identified species of concern, and any other ways in which the evaluation could be shored up to properly address ESA concerns in the area of interest. We have attached the BE as a DRAFT document to this email.

If possible, we would like to set up a conference call in the next 2-3 weeks to discuss the BE with you after you've had a chance to re-visit its contents. We are available at the end of next week (Sept 20-21) as well as the week of September 24 if your schedule will allow.

Thanks so much for your assistance and we look forward to discussing this matter with you further!

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